



Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme

# PROJECT IDEA FORM

Please fill out one form per project idea. Please fill out as many fields as possible, but try to keep it short.  
Please write in the grey boxes in order to complete the form electronically.

|  |                                     |  |                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| <b>Project Title</b>   | <b>Grounds 4 Change</b>             |  |                 |
| <b>Priorities</b><br><b>Interreg IVB NSR Programme</b><br><i>Please choose <b>one</b> theme that fits best with your project idea</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 1. Building on our Capacity for Innovation                       |                 |
|  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 2. Promoting the Sustainable Management of our Environment       |                 |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 3. Improving the Accessibility of Places in the North Sea Region |                 |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | 4. Promoting Sustainable and Competitive Communities             |                 |
| <b>Contact Details</b>   |                                     |  |                 |
| <b>First Name</b>  | Paul                                | <b>Surname</b>   | van Eijck       |
| <b>Institution</b>   | Province of Drenthe                 |  |                 |
| <b>Address</b>   | Westerbrink 1                       | <b>P.O. Box</b>  | 122             |
| <b>Postcode</b>  | 9400 AC                             | <b>City</b>  | Assen           |
| <b>Country</b>   | the Netherlands                     |  |                 |
| <b>Telephone</b>   | +31592 - 36 55 55                   | <b>Fax</b>   | +31592 - 365216 |
| <b>E-mail address</b>  |                                     |  |                 |
| <b>Project Description</b>   |                                     |  |                 |
| <p>It has become increasingly clear that our Western lifestyle is not sustainable: fossil energy demand is rapidly increasing, the negative impact of humankind on climate change is generally accepted by most of the scientific world and the ecological footprint of human activity exceeds the amount of space available by far. This recognition brings up two main issues at the present day agenda: the development of sustainable energy strategies and the development of spatial design strategies aimed and preserving and improving spatial qualities.</p> <p>So far, the interrelationships between these two leading issues, energy and spatial planning, has hardly been recognised nor has it been brought into practise in policy planning.</p> <p>The project "Grounds 4 Change" is about bridging energy planning and spatial design strategies. Two important notions are at the base of the Grounds 4 Change project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The transition to a sustainable energy system, no longer depending on non-renewable or polluting energy sources has become one of the leading challenges of the coming decades. Evidence of human impact on climate change is overwhelming and demands for serious and concrete action including solutions for the shorter term future and the development of sustainable strategies for the longer term future.</li> <li>• The quality of our spatial surroundings is under pressure. New living areas, industrial sites, agricultural activity and transport demand for space. Furthermore, recreation and leisure require high quality surroundings whereas nature preservation is increasingly accepted as a valuable aspect of increasing our quality of life. New planning tools are needed to integrate these different demands for space in a sustainable way.</li> </ul> <p>From this perspective energy planning and spatial planning are clearly interwoven: our future</p> |                                     |  |                 |

energy system includes a broad range of sustainable energy sources (wind, water, sun, biomass) all claiming space whereas spatial demands will affect the possibilities for transforming our energy system into a more sustainable energy system. Therefore we regard energy planning and spatial planning as two sides of the same medal.

New approaches, solutions and tools are needed to address the challenges of climate change, energy security and improving the quality of our spatial surroundings.

#### Central Aim

The Province of Drenthe adopted an ambitious Energy and Climate programme. Drenthe aims to become a “first mover” when it comes to bridging energy planning and spatial design strategies at the regional and local level. This is not without reason: by its origin Drenthe has many possibilities to shape the present energy system into a more sustainable energy system. Renewable energy sources will be increasingly used to meet the energy demand of Drenthe. This new blend of energy sources and technologies are build upon the region’s traditions as a centre of agro-industrial activities, deep drilling, energy trade and oil and gas winning. From a spatial perspective Drenthe is highly appreciated because of the high quality landscapes. Drenthe wants to be a sustainable and resilient region where energy investments are structured to enhance the diversity of lifestyles where comfortable rural living coexists with a network of growing towns.

The central aim of Grounds 4 Change is therefore to develop new, integrated planning tools addressing energy planning and spatial planning together. Governments, regions businesses, research centres and NGO’s will be involved to generate and share new knowledge, skills and tools to build a sustainable future. International focus and cooperation is needed to experience the differences and similarities at the regional and local level to bridge energy planning and spatial planning. Both mitigation and adaptation strategies will be included in the new planning tools.

#### Envisaged Outcomes

- Possible ways to combine the aim of building a sustainable energy system while preserving and strengthening the spatial qualities will be explored and presented, both at the regional and local level.
- new, integrated planning tools will be developed, tested and implemented
- We aim at building up an international network to share knowledge, skills, tools and information
- Facilitating regional and local policy making and influencing European policy
- dissemination of the outcomes of the project in an attractive and informative way.
- building methods and tools that are also generally applicable to other regions.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Thematic Keywords</b><br>(max. 5 words) | energy, climate, spatial, sustainable, technologies |
| <b>Partners already found</b>              | none  |
| <b>Partners requested</b>                  | Sweden, Germany, Belgium, United Kingdom, Danmark   |
| <b>Estimated budget</b>                    | € 9000000,00  |
| <b>Date</b> (dd/mm/yyyy)                   | 16.05.2008  |

Please submit this form to [info@northsearegion.eu](mailto:info@northsearegion.eu)